

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

(WEST SUFFOLK)



R E P O R T

Of The

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

1 9 6 4

P. COGGIN BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health, of the Rural District of Thingoe, in the County of West Suffolk, for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

1, Northgate Street,
Bury St. Edmunds.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1964.

There was a further small increase in the Registrar General's estimate of the population.

There was a sharp rise in the birth rate, a substantial fall in the death rate and both rates compared favourably with those for England and Wales. There was, however, an unwelcome increase in the infant mortality rate.

The decision to speed up the programme for the provision of sewerage in the district indicated the Council's awareness of the urgent need for this basic public health service.

The reconstruction and modernisation of the James Stiff Cottages at Roughan was a further example of the provision of really comfortable accommodation for elderly people.

A novel feature of the house building programme was the inclusion of factory built houses which were erected at Barrow.

Progress with the clearance or improvement of sub-standard property was steady rather than spectacular and much remains to be done in this connection.

A thorough search of the district for cans of tinned meat from certain batches which were thought to be associated with the outbreak of typhoid fever at Aberdeen was conducted by your Public Health Inspectors with efficiency and enthusiasm.

My thanks are due to the members of my staff and especially to Mr. F. Holmes, your Chief Public Health Inspector, for his loyal support at all times and for his help in the compilation of this Report.

Finally, I should like to record my appreciation of the encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

P. COGGIN BROWN,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor N.R. Whitwell, Chairman.

Councillor F.B. Clarke, Vice-Chairman.

Councillors

E.W. Bird

H.H. Cawston

Lady Marjorie Erskine

R.F. Greenwood

Rev. W.E. Harris

C.W.G. Hatten

*W.R. Rayner

Mrs. L.A. Hudson

J.H.W. Last

W.R. Mizen

A.B. Parish

D.D. Shickle

C.J. Smith

*Indicates Ex-Officio Member.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

P. COGGIN BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

This Officer holds in addition the following appointments:-

Assistant County Medical Officer
School Medical Officer

} West Suffolk County Council

Medical Officer of Health

- Borough of Bury St. Edmunds

Chief Public Health Inspector

F. HOLMES, M.A.P.H.I., M.B.S.H.

Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.

Hons. Dip. R.I.P.H. & H.

This Officer is also appointed Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosives Acts.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

A.H. TRANTUM, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., Dip. H. ENG.

Meat and Other Foods Diploma R.S.H.

Health Engineering Diploma R.S.H.

Smoke Inspector's Diploma R.S.H.

Clerk/Typist

MRS. J.E. JAMES

Rodent Operators

C.H.W. HOLDEN

H.V. MILLS

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area 106,739 acres.

Registrar General's estimate	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
of the resident population	22,060	21,790	21,620
Census 1961 (April)	20,070		
Rateable Value	£408,346	£360,112	£164,145
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£1,693	£1,620	£659

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION There was a further increase of 270 in the Registrar General's estimate of the population.

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	209	200	409
Illegitimate	8	13	21
	<u>217</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>430</u>
		<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population		19.5	17.7
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 population		20.7	18.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales.		18.4	18.2
Legitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births.		95.1	97.9
Comparability factor for births		1.06	0.98

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
		<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births		13.8	30.2
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births England and Wales.		16.3	17.3

BIRTHS There was a sharp rise in the birth rate. The figure for the corrected birth rate was above that for England and Wales and the highest recorded in Thingoe Rural District in the last decade.

DEATHS

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.6	9.5
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.8	10.9
Death Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	11.3	12.2
Comparability factor for deaths	1.14	1.14

The death rate declined substantially and the figure of 9.8 per 1,000 of the population for the corrected death rate compares favourably with that for England and Wales.

Fewer deaths occurred from vascular lesions of the nervous system and from heart and other circulatory diseases, but deaths from motor vehicle accidents increased from four to eight, and lung cancer accounted for nine deaths compared with four in the previous year.

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age			
Legitimate	8	4	12
Illegitimate	1	Nil	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>
		<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		30.2	15.5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births			
England and Wales		20.0	20.9
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		20.9	5.2

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age increased from six to thirteen, which caused a marked rise in the infant mortality rate from the low figure recorded in 1963. It should be emphasised, however, that the infant mortality rate must be expected to vary widely from year to year because the figure is based upon a relatively small number of births. The rate for Thingoe Rural District has varied considerably in the past and has exceeded the figure for England and Wales in six of the last ten years. In 1964 eight of the infant deaths occurred in the first week of life. Congenital malformations and prematurity each caused four deaths and one infant died from accidental causes. The death of one illegitimate infant was recorded.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS										
	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Birth Rate (corrected)	20.7	18.8	18.6	17.0	18.7	17.6	18.8	18.8	16.7	16.8
Death Rate (corrected)	9.8	10.9	8.8	8.9	9.6	8.4	9.0	10.4	10.4	8.4
Infant Mortality Rate	30.2	15.5	24.6	21.1	12.1	28.6	35.3	27.9	27.9	21.1
Number of Infant Deaths	13	6	9	7	4	9	12	12	8	6

The following table gives the causes and the number of deaths which occurred during 1964:-

<u>Registrar General's Figures</u>				
	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	1964	(1963)	1964	(1963)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	(-)	-	(-)
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
3. Syphilitic disease.....	-	(1)	-	(1)
4. Diphtheria.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
5. Whooping Cough.....	-	(-)	1	(-)
6. Meningococcal infection.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
8. Measles.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	2	(6)	-	(3)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	7	(3)	2	(1)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	(1)	1	(2)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	(-)	1	(-)
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	7	(12)	10	(4)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	2	(1)	-	(-)
16. Diabetes.....	-	(1)	-	(1)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	16	(17)	11	(16)
18. Coronary disease.....	28	(20)	9	(15)
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	(2)	1	(1)
20. Other heart disease.....	9	(12)	13	(13)
21. Other circulatory disease.....	2	(5)	3	(6)
22. Influenza.....	-	(1)	1	(2)
23. Pneumonia.....	6	(6)	3	(8)
24. Bronchitis.....	10	(4)	-	(1)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	(2)	-	(1)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	(1)	-	(1)
27. Gastritis.....	1	(-)	-	(1)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	(-)	1	(1)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion, ...	-	(-)	-	(-)
31. Congenital malformations.....	3	(-)	1	(1)
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases.....	9	(8)	13	(9)
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	7	(2)	1	(2)
34. All other accidents.....	2	(4)	2	(6)
35. Suicide.....	-	(3)	-	(-)
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
	<u>115</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>96</u>

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections made either by the notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles.....	27	36	63
Scarlet Fever.....	-	1	1
Whooping Cough.....	6	8	14
Food Poisoning.....	2	1	3

Food Poisoning On two separate occasions salmonella infections occurred in humans and in each case it was believed that the infection was transmitted from animals.

A young foal was affected by "scouring" and the Veterinary Surgeon found the foal and the brood mare to be infected with *Salmonella enteritidis*. The same organism was recovered from two of the staff who looked after these animals and who subsequently became ill.

A batch of calves on a smallholding was affected by "scouring" and *Salmonella typhimurium* was found to be the cause. The baby daughter of the smallholder was taken ill and the same organism was recovered from her. Later positive specimens were obtained also from the rest of the family but they remained symptomless.

Whooping Cough Fourteen cases were notified and one death occurred from this disease.

Contact Tracing On a number of occasions during the year it was necessary to trace and place under surveillance contacts of known or suspected cases of serious infectious diseases. Two separate incidents occurred involving contacts of typhoid fever, and on another occasion a number of persons from this district had attended a function in another county with others who subsequently developed paratyphoid B. It is gratifying to record that no further cases occurred.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

NEW CASES

	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Pulmonary	5	2	7	5	3	1	5	6	5
Non-Pulmonary	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1

Ages of cases notified during 1964:

Pulmonary: F. 16; F.23; F.40; F.57; F.85.

Non-Pulmonary: Nil

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified increased from three in the previous year to five in the year under review.

MORTALITY: One death occurred from Tuberculosis during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Cases at 1st January, 1964.	21	19	2	1	23	20
2. Notified first in 1964.	-	5	-	-	-	5
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by Transfers	-	1	-	-	-	1
5. Cases removed from Register	3	3	-	-	3	3
6. Remaining at 31st December, 1964	18	22	2	1	20	23

CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics were held at the following centres in Thingoe Rural

District:

Barrow	Village Hall	4th Friday afternoon
Chedburgh	Church Hall	2nd Friday "
Honington	The Aerodrome	1st and 3rd Tuesday "
Inghan	Cadogan Arms	2nd Monday "
Ixworth	Village Hall	3rd Thursday "
Stanton	Shepherds Hall	2nd Tuesday "

The above Clinics and other Health and Welfare Services were provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

1. GENERAL

Staff There were no staff changes during the year.

New Legislation

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. (Operative from 1st May, 1964).

This Act is designed to protect the health and welfare of persons working in shops, offices and similar establishments. All premises of this nature must be registered with the Local Authority or Factories Inspector and with the Fire Authority. Initial inspections were made of several of those premises which were registered during the year but it is clear that many employers have either not realised that they must register small businesses or have not read the publicity issued nationally. Routine inspections are still revealing unregistered premises.

Housing Act, 1964. (Operative from 16th July, 1964)

The main effects of this Act were to alter the conditions applicable to Improvement Grants and Standard Grants and to give certain compulsory powers to Authorities to enforce the improvement of tenanted properties. Several enquiries were made in the Department concerning compulsory improvements but tenants declined to ask for improvements to be carried out because of possible eviction or loss of employment as a consequence. The changes in the Standard Grant provisions have resulted in a slight increase in enquiries but it will take a full year for the effects of these changes to be felt. No Improvement Areas were declared during the year.

Protection from Eviction Act, 1964 (Passed on 17th December, 1964)

Leaflets explaining the Act were issued to tenants on request but no offences under the Act were brought to the Council's notice.

Table of Inspections

Once again a table of inspections is given but this is essentially to indicate the variety of work covered by the Department. Comment on specific matters which arose during the year are given under the subject headings which follow.

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS

Premises Inspected	Total Inspections	
	1964	(1963)
<u>Housing:</u>		
Condemned Properties.....	67	161
Survey and Classifications.....	270	396
Defects and Nuisances.....	76	150
Improvement Grants.....	236	265
Rent Acts.....	2	-
Overcrowding.....	5	10
Drainage.....	213	191
Applications for Council Houses.....	34	18
<u>Food Premises:</u>		
Meat Inspection.....	206	189
Butchers.....	18	23
Bakers.....	6	10
General Stores.....	71	115
Fried Fish.....	6	2
Cafes and Catering Premises.....	9	6
Mobile Shops.....	9	14
Licensed Premises.....	28	22
Unsound Foodstuffs.....	12	8
Dairies.....	2	2
Schools.....	9	9
Ice Cream Premises.....	15	21
<u>Caravans:</u>		
Caravans and Caravan Sites.....	141	147
<u>Rats and Mice:</u>		
Tips.....	10	11
Sewers and Sewage Works.....	8	10
General.....	33	28
Contracts.....	7	3
<u>Factories:</u>		
Powered Factories.....	29	13
Non-powered Factories.....	6	6
Outworkers.....	2	2
<u>Petroleum:</u>		
Inspection of Installations (including tank tests).....	79	49
<u>Interviews:</u>	225	226
<u>Infectious Diseases:</u>	31	20
<u>Problem Families:</u>	8	9
<u>Poultry Dressers:</u>	2	3
<u>Smoke Abatement:</u>	3	5
<u>Explosives:</u>	19	14
<u>Agricultural Properties (Safety, Health and Welfare):</u>	9	10
<u>Show Grounds and Fairs:</u>	1	2
<u>Keeping of Animals:</u>	18	25
<u>Water Supply:</u>	55	25
<u>Ponds, Pools and Ditches:</u>	56	61
<u>Bathing Places:</u>	5	8
<u>Vermineous Premises:</u>	2	7
<u>Other Nuisances:</u>	42	39
<u>Flooding:</u>	10	3
<u>Sewer Connections and Pail Conversions:</u>	30	30
<u>Insect Infestation:</u>	8	8
<u>Lectures:</u>	3	6
<u>Shops Act:</u>	-	3
<u>Noise Abatement:</u>	-	3
<u>Animal Boarding Establishments:</u>	11	-
<u>Disinfection for Export (Clothes):</u>	2	-
<u>Hairdressers:</u>	2	-
<u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:</u>	57	-

	Number on Register at 31.12.64	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,6 and 7 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	6	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	65	29	2	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (* excl. Outworkers premises).	7	7	2	Nil
Totals	76	42	4	Nil

*i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 123 (i)), Institutions (Section 124) and sites of Building Operation and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 127).

Cases in which Defects were found.

	Number of cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Reported		
			to H.M, Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences (s.7.)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Want of cleanliness	3	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act not including Outworkers	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	4	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	Unsatisfactory premises Section (134)
Wearing apparel (Making etc.)	4	Nil	Nil

Public Conveniences.

The question of providing adequate conveniences on main traffic routes was again discussed by the Public Health Committee and further enquiries were made with the hope of obtaining a suitable site in the Ixworth area. No site was available at the close of the year but negotiations with the West Suffolk County Council were in hand concerning financing such a scheme.

2. PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

The Council lost control of the Water Undertaking to the West Suffolk Water Board from the 1st April, 1964 and all sampling of private sources is now undertaken by this Department. It is our intention to sample all private supplies in due course with a view to closing unsatisfactory sources. The results of samples taken in 1964 were as follows:-

No. of samples taken	13
No. of properties served	32
No. of samples satisfactory	5
No. of samples unsatisfactory	8

Unsatisfactory supplies were dealt with as follows:-

- 2 properties closed
- 2 properties connected to mains supply.
- 1 supply (involving three properties) chlorinator fitted.
- 1 supply (involving three properties) cleansed and awaiting mains supply.

In view of the transfer of functions no details are available of the supply parish by parish as requested in Circular 1/65 but the position would be better than reported in the appendix to the Annual Report for 1963.

3. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

The following details have been taken from the Annual Return to the Minister required by Section 60 of the Act:-

Registrations and general Inspections--.

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	24	24	8
Retail Shops	23	21	18
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	2	2	1
Catering establishments open to public. Canteens.	9	9	3
Fuel storage depots.	-	-	-

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	79
Retail shops	65
Wholesale departments, warehouses	17
Catering establishments open to the public	23
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	184
Total Males	85
Total Females	99

4. CARAVANS

The number of caravans sited in the district increased during the year, the majority being occupied by newly married couples. This is largely due to the extreme pressure placed upon the housing resources of the area although there is a group of the population which chooses this way of life.

One section of a privately owned site within the district has been developed exclusively for elderly people. This is occupied mainly by folk who on retiring wish to relinquish their houses in the towns to live in the country and the modern well equipped residential caravan offers an attractive and reasonably priced form of accommodation which, if properly located on an efficiently run site with all conveniences, can constitute a satisfactory home.

The improvements to the Council's own site at Rymer Point referred to in last year's report were completed. Each site now has mains electricity and water, its own storage shed, W.C. and garage.

For the second consecutive year itinerant workers have not caused any real problems although their presence on unsuitable sites in the district was reported to the Department on two occasions.

One site in the district is occupied by members of the Showmen's Guild and is exempt from the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act. The site has not given rise to any complaints and is in fact only occupied for about six months each year.

Number of licensed sites at 31st December, 1964	42
Number of caravans on these sites	125
Number of exempted sites at 31st December, 1964	15
Maximum number of caravans on exempted sites.	34
Number of applications for new licences received during the year.	15
Number of applications for new licences approved during the year.	11
Number of vans approved on such sites.	11
Number of applications for new site licences refused during the year.	3
Number of sites discontinued during the year.	6

5. BATHING PLACES.

Bathing in the rivers again showed a decline but vigilance is necessary. and routine checks of rivers and swimming pool waters were carried out. On one occasion chemically treated grain was deposited in the river which could have caused serious trouble. One school pool at Barrow was opened. Several Parent-Teacher Organisations commenced "Pool Funds" and this trend is to be commended but it is hoped that advice on construction and maintenance will be asked for before any pools are commenced as correcting faults afterwards is often difficult and expensive.

6. PRIVATE DRAINAGE.

The Council, fully aware of the need for sewerage facilities, agreed to concentrate efforts on extending this facility (see later report) and in addition an annual free emptying of septic tanks is to be offered where sewers are not available. Several owners sought advice on inefficient systems and five properties were connected to the sewer in default. There are some villages where nuisance is likely to arise from time to time due to the unsuitable nature of the soil and it has been necessary to limit development proposals on certain sites until sewerage is available.

7. RADIOACTIVITY

Four Licences were issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government permitting the use of radioactive tracers in fertilizer on experimental plots but the total activity in each batch did not exceed 6 millicuries of ^{phosphorus} ~~Phosphorus~~ 32. This is a very small quantity but it was noted that all the plots to be treated were within sight of water boreholes.

8. (a) PETROLEUM

Number of premises licensed during 1964	146
(Total quantity stored	125,000 gallons)
Number of new tanks installed	9
Number of tanks discontinued	1
Existing tanks tested (a) pass	4
(b) fail	1

No accidents or fires were reported during the year and no offences detected which warranted formal action.

(b) EXPLOSIVES.

Eighteen Licences were issued for the storage of fireworks and cartridges.

Shopkeepers were eager to co-operate in limiting the period over which fireworks were sold prior to November 5th and no offences were detected. One gelignite store remains in use.

9. INSECT AND OTHER INFESTATIONS

The number of requests for advice or treatment of infestations fell but the following thirteen infestations were dealt with:-

Bees	3	Flies	2
Mosquitoes	1	Bats	3
Fleas	1	Wasps	3

10. RODENT CONTROL

The second operator was appointed on 17th February, 1964 and we were fortunate in obtaining the services of an operator who had had previous experience with a commercial company. The efficiency of the service has increased and the contract service to business and agriculture has resulted in a small increase in income. One difficult infestation was dealt with in a large deep litter house where it was estimated that over 300 rats were eventually destroyed. An extract of the Annual Report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food follows:-

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1964
Extract

	Type of Property				Agricultural
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other Premises	Totals of Cols. 1, 2, and 3	
1. Number of properties in L.A.'s District	64	5,761	745	6,570	389
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification.	7	227	42	276	3
Number of properties found to be infested by: Common Rat Major	1	2	-	3	1
Minor	2	103	23	128	2
House Mouse Major	-	1	-	1	-
Minor	2	11	11	24	1
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	12	363	57	432	49
Number of properties found to be infested by: Common Rat Major	-	1	-	1	1
Minor	1	27	9	37	12
House Mouse Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	20	3	24	-
4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected	45	783	237	1065	19
Number of properties found to be infested by: Common Rat Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	17	1	18	3
House Mouse Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	2	2	4	-
6. Number of infested properties (in Secs. 2, 3 and 4) treated by L.A.	5	172	25	202	7
7. Total treatments carried out (where known)	-	-	-	-	-
8. Number of notices served under section 4 of the Act: (a) Treatment	-	1	2	3	5
(b) Structural Work	-	-	1	1	2
11. Number of "Block Control" schemes carried out	57				

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD HYGIENE

Probably the most important event of the year was the Aberdeen Typhoid outbreak. The repercussions of this incident were widespread not only by causing the countrywide search for 6lbs. tins of meat from the specified production centres but also by increasing food hygiene consciousness. This consciousness was, however, only shortlived and one wonders what long term benefits are obtained from such publicity. Regular visits from a Public Health Inspector to food premises in conjunction with press and television publicity are the only way of obtaining any real advance in standard now, but future generations will demand the standards they are taught to expect in their formative years.

One interesting incident came to light during the search for the meat tins. A butcher had opened a 6lbs. tin of corned beef and had sold a small quantity. On hearing the news on T.V. that 6lbs. tins of corned beef were possibly involved in the Typhoid outbreak he immediately threw the tin and its contents into the dustbin feeling that this was the right action to take. In so doing he had exposed the meat to ideal conditions for multiplication of any bacteria present, made possible access for flies to pick up any infection and carry it further afield; exposed members of the refuse collection service to possible infection and eventually the material would have been deposited on the tip where rats, flies, insects and those ever searching itinerant collectors of scrap etc. would have had free access to its deadly contents. Infected or suspect materials of any description should be burned completely or reported to the Health Department for collection and destruction separately.

The trends reported in previous years in the food distributive trades continued with five general stores, one greengrocer and two bakers closing down. Some other stores changed hands. and once again it was noticed that people with no previous experience of commercial food handling can start up in business having no knowledge of the law on the subject, or of the principles of hygiene involved and without notifying the Local Authority. Is it not time that all food premises should be registered and all principals be in possession of a certificate of competence before taking over premises for food sales ?

2. UN SOUND FOOD.

Advice was sought by members of the public on several occasions on various subjects such as the shelf life of frozen foods, crystals in ice-cream (ice!), bent tins, watermark in bread (due to dense dough) and a piece of wood in a loaf of bread (not purchased in this area).

It is never known just how much unsound food is bought and sold in any year but it is known that only a small percentage of cases are reported to the Health Department. The following case was reported.

A consignment of tinned cherries and one of tinned peas were surrendered by a shopkeeper who had purchased them as a "job lot" only to find they were all unfit. The vendor could not be traced. A sad tale with a moral somewhere.

3. MEAT AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Two private slaughterhouses operate in the district and most of the animals killed were raised on local farms. The inspection of meat is carried out to the full standard laid down in the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 but some meat was not inspected within six hours; neither was twenty four hours notice of intention to kill given in every case. A considerable amount of goodwill between Butchers and Inspectors alike has resulted in another year of 100% inspection but it has involved your staff in regular evening and week-end work out of normal office hours. Details of the year's kill and unfit meat surrendered were as follows:-

Cattle

Livers	(abscesses)	5
Liver pt.	(melanosis)	1
Liver pt.	(abscesses)	3
Liver pt.	(cystic)	1
Liver pt.	(distoma)	1
Livers	(mult. abscesses)	3
Beef	(decomposition)	34lbs.
Sets Guts and Fat	(calcified deposits)	1
Set Lungs	(fascioliasis)	1
Liver	(distoma)	1

Sheep

Forequarter	(abscesses)	1
Set Lungs	(worms)	1
Liver	(parasites)	1
Liver	(abscess and peritonitis)	1
Lamb	(decomposition)	38 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Liver	(abscesses)	1
Liver	(flukes)	1

Pigs

Kidneys	(cystic)	6
Lungs	(pleurisy)	4
Lungs	(pneumonia)	7
Set Guts	(inflammation)	1
Heads	(T.B.)	2
Head	(abscesses)	1
Heart	(pericarditis)	1
Kidney	(nephritis)	1
Livers	(ascaris lunbricoides)	2
Hock pt.	(abscess)	1
Hearts	(pleurisy and pericarditis)	2
Sets Lungs	(pleurisy and pericarditis)	2
Sets Lungs	(v. pneumonia)	2
Liver	(bact. necrosis)	1
Heart	(endocarditis)	1
Set Guts	(enteritis)	1

Carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (All were inspected)	175	Nil	Nil	177	199
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some organ or part was condemned.	17	Nil	Nil	7	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.7%	0%	0%	3.9%	15%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.5%
<u>Cysticercosis Only</u>					
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No horses or animals other than those shown above are slaughtered in the area.

4. MILK

There were two changes in the Registers during the year. Mr. Hayhoe of West Stow retired and Springbank Dairy moved premises. The only other event of note was the introduction of the disposable container into the district. A small number of consumers are now receiving their milk in plastic packs and, in spite of the obvious hygiene advantages of the non-returnable container, so far their reception has not been enthusiastic. The main objection is to the type of pack - a plastic bag from which the corner is cut when required. It is to be hoped that more rigid containers will be developed and become the rule rather than the exception in due course.

HOUSING

1. Clearance of Unfit Housing.

The rate of rehousing of persons from unfit properties has not increased over the last year and there are still persons living in properties subject to Orders and Undertakings. The number of properties demolished is less than half of last year's total but this is largely due to the fact that there is a strong demand for old property of any type from private purchasers willing to spend large sums of money on reconstruction. With over 400 applications for Council Houses on the files and the limited number of lettings available each year for occupants of unfit properties it is unlikely that this section of the Report will give a happy picture for several years to come. The original plan in 1961 was expected to take ten years and it is likely to be 1971 before success can be claimed in the Clearance Programme.

Clearance Progress, 1964.

How dealt with	Number Demolished	No. Displaced in Year	
		Persons	Families
A. Clearance Areas	Nil	Nil	Nil
Individual Unfit Properties (Demolition Orders)	8	18	8
	Number Closed	No. Displaced in Year	
		Persons	Families
B. Closing Orders	3	8	4
C. Rendered fit under Public Health and Housing Acts	55		
D. Unfit Houses Retained for temporary use.	3		
E. Purchased by Council	Nil		

2. NEW BUILDING

Council

Twenty eight traditional properties were completed during the year and sixteen factory built houses which were allocated as follows:-

Unfit properties subject to Orders	5
Unfit properties due for reconstruction	6
General needs	25
From outside Thingoe Rural District	3
From caravans	2
Overcrowding	3

Private

A total of two hundred and twenty two private dwellings were completed.

3. MODERNISATION

(a) Council Houses.

Fifty six properties were modernised including the James Stiff Cottages which were also provided with communal lounges and a warden's flat. This follows the Council's policy of saving existing properties where the owners cannot do so but are prepared to transfer the property to the Council.

(b) Private Improvement and Grants.

Applications for both Standard and Discretionary Grants continue to come in at a rate slightly higher than one per week. Initial enquiries about such Grants are made at some three times this rate but many owner/occupiers in the lower income groups are enthusiastic until they obtain quotations. The enthusiasm then often wanes rapidly but there is nothing the Council can do to help. The £15 closet conversion Grant offered to encourage people to connect to the sewer has been of use and several people now have this amenity who otherwise would have been unable to afford a full Standard Grant scheme.

Grants approved and completed during the year:

	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Discretionary	39 (34)	28 (36)
Standard	33 (37)	26 (27)
Pail conversions	- -	25 (11)

4. OVERCROWDING

Cases on Register at 1st January, 1964	8
New Cases	3
Families rehoused by Thingoe R.D.C.	3
Families rehoused privately	-
Families left the district	-
Remaining on Register at 31st December, 1964	8

SANITARY SERVICES

This information has been supplied by:-

S.M. CASSON, M.I.MUN.E., A.M.I.P.H.E.,

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

1. DRAINAGE AND SEWIRAGE

As forecast in last year's Annual Report the Lark Valley Sewerage Scheme providing drainage for the villages of Risby, Flempton, West Stow, Culford and Inghan was completed and in operation for the Official Opening date, the 22nd April, 1964. The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Gainsborough, the Chairman of the Rural District Councils Association performed the Official Opening Ceremony before a gathering of representatives of neighbouring Authorities.

The sewerage of Great Barton commenced during the year and was 75% completed by the end of the year and it is confidently anticipated that the Scheme will be finished well within the Contract period, but as mentioned in last year's report will not be operational until Thedwastre R.D.C. has completed the construction of the sewage works at Thurston - at the present time the indication is that this will not be before the end of 1965.

The Council is anxious to expedite the rate of sewerage provision in all villages and with this in mind agreed to an enlargement in the engineering staff by two additional engineering assistants. These were appointed at the end of the year and are due to take up duty in February, 1965. Work is then to be commenced on schemes for the following villages: Bradfield St. George, Pakenham, Sapiston, Troston, Great Livermere, Great Saxham and the extension of existing sewage works which are now overloaded at Ixworth and Barrow.

New schemes have already been prepared for the villages of Bradfield St. Clare, Fornham St. Martin and Horringer and work should commence on all three in the summer of 1965. Considerable building development in the Wheltenham area has necessitated a scheme for increasing the size of the works in this village and here again the prepared scheme is likely to commence in the summer of 1965.

2. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Following last year's indication that the refuse collection programme was becoming overloaded by virtue of increased building operations in the area the Council agreed to the acquisition of a new 50 yard Pakamatic vehicle to enable the time lost in travelling to and from tips, to be reduced. It is anticipated that this vehicle will enable the programme to be maintained and

and the Council has in mind the replacement of its second 25 yard vehicle with a further 50 yarder, in due course. New bonus systems for encouraging refuse collection operators are being introduced. in 1965 and the Council is likely to consider a change over to the back door collection of refuse within the next three years.

Difficulty is still being experienced on refuse tips due to the composition of the refuse. Refuse consists, principally, of paper and tins and on one occasion during the year one of the tips caught fire and a considerable quantity of covering material was necessary to control the fire.

No great effort has been made to recover waste paper since the price does not encourage the expenditure of either time or money.

	1964				1963			
	Tonnage	£.	s.	d.	Tonnage	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	14	55.	12.	3.	20	80.	7.	6.
Scrap Metal	10	118.	10.	2.	6	107.	4.	10.

*****oOo*****

The copies of Analyst's Certificates which follow have been provided by the West Suffolk Water Board. Details of the supply parish by parish are not available.

Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.

Analytical and Consulting Chemists

Eric C. Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.

M.W. Wood

Cert. No. R.300
Lab. No. 8785/W

8th December, 1964.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATERSample received 16th November, 1964 from West Suffolk Water Board.Marked Raw water - Rushbrooke P.S.Appearance when received clearNature of Deposit nilColour nilOdour nilReaction faintly alkaline pH 7.4Taste satisfactory.RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

<u>Ammoniacal nitrogen</u>	0.01	<u>Hardness as CaCO₃</u>	
<u>Albuminoid nitrogen</u>	0.02	<u>Total</u>	325
<u>Nitrate nitrogen</u>	2.5	<u>Carbonate (temporary)</u>	290
<u>Nitrate nitrogen</u>	nil	<u>Non-carbonate (permanent)</u>	35
<u>Chloride as Cl.</u>	20	<u>Alkalinity as CaCO₃</u>	290
<u>Permanganate Value (4 hr)</u>	0.02	<u>Free carbon dioxide</u>	25
		<u>Total solids (at 180°C)</u>	395
		<u>Iron (total)</u>	0.07
		<u>Metals in solution</u>	nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTSNumber of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37°CPresumptive coliform organisms - Probable Number per 100 ml.E. Coli Type 1 ("faecal") - Probable Number per 100 ml.OPINION

The organic quality of this water is very good and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The analysis as a whole is very similar to that of the Risby supply (our certificate NO. R.301). In our opinion this water is very suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.,

Signed ERIC C. WOOD.

Copy
Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.,
Analytical and Consultant Chemists
Eric C. Wood PH.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.

Clarence House,
6, Clarence Road,
Norwich.

Cert No. R. 229
Lab No. 8785/W

8th December, 1964.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 16th November, 1964. from West Suffolk Water Board
Marked Treated water - Ixworth P.S.
Appearance when received clear
Nature of Deposit nil
Colour nil Odour nil
Reaction faintly alkaline pH 7.8 Taste satisfactory

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

<u>Ammoniacal nitrogen</u>	0.01	<u>Hardness as CaCO₃:</u>	
<u>Albuminoid nitrogen</u>		<u>Total</u>	365
<u>Nitrate nitrogen</u>	4	<u>Carbonate (temporary)</u>	270
<u>Nitrate nitrogen</u>	nil	<u>Non-carbonate (permanent)</u>	95
<u>Chloride as Cl.</u>	40	<u>Alkalinity as CaCO₃</u>	270
<u>Permanganate Value (4 hr)</u>	0.4	<u>Free Carbon Dioxide</u>	9.0
		<u>Total solids (at 180°C)</u>	480
		<u>Iron (total)</u>	0.07
		<u>Metals in solution</u> lead, zinc	nil
		copper	very faint trace.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37°C
Presumptive coliform organisms-Probable Number per 100 ml.
E. Coli Type 1 ("faecal")-Probable Number per 100 ml.

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. The water had a total hardness of about 22° Clark, 19° of which is temporary. The reaction is on the alkaline side of neutrality, so that no corrosive action on ~~metals~~ ^{metals} is to be expected.. The trace of iron remaining in the water after treatment is negligible. In our opinion this water is fit for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.,

Signed ERIC C. WOOD.

Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.
Analytical and Consulting Chemists
Eric C. Wood PH.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
M.W.WOOD

Clarence House,
6, Clarence Road,
Norwich.

Cert. No. R.301
Lab. No. 8786/W

8th December, 1964.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 16th November, 1964. from West Suffolk Water Board.
Marked Treated water - Risby P.S.,
Appearance when received clear
Nature of Deposit nil
Colour nil Odour nil
Reaction faintly alkaline pH 7.5 Taste satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.01	Hardness as CaCO ₃	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.01	Total	310
Nitrate nitrogen	6.5	Carbonate (temporary)	250
Nitrate nitrogen	nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	60
Chloride as Cl.	18	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	250
Pernanganate Value (4 hr.)	0.15	Free carbon dioxide	20
		Total solids (at 180°C)	395
		Iron (total)	0.06
		Metals in solution	nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37°C
Presumptive coliform organisms - Probable Number per 100 ml.
E. Coli Type 1 ("faecal") - Probable Number per 100 ml.

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The total hardness of the water is about 22°Clark, most of which is temporary. A trace of iron is present, too small to affect the clarity of the water. On the chemical evidence this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.,
Signed E.C. Wood.

